

THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF HALTWHISTLE

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
J. M. McEWAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

and of

THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

For the Year, 1969



STAFF :

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Mrs. E. THOMPSON	-	-	<i>Clerk Typist</i>
(<i>Resigned October, 1969</i>)			
Mrs. M. M. THOBURN	-	-	<i>Clerk Typist</i>
(<i>Appointed October, 1969</i>)			

*To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council
of Haltwhistle :*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1969.

The Rural District consists of the town of Haltwhistle and a number of villages and hamlets. There are two types of economy, one based on industry and one on agriculture, and it is not easy for the Council to promote the interests of both. Haltwhistle is proving the natural growth centre, and it offers a wide range of employment. The villages are less fortunate, and while the council have made life more attractive by the provision of modern amenities, there is no diversity of employment in them and no apparent prospect of new industry. The rural area is one of considerable beauty and is becoming better known on this account, and an increasing number of visitors would be of help to keep the villages from decline. Haltwhistle is the administrative centre, and with existing industries, the occupation of one advance factory and the building of a second, there appears to be adequate employment in many fields. For some years the Council have been concerned about the risk of unemployment with the closure of local collieries, but the position has now been reversed to the point where a large housing development is contemplated with a view to attracting sufficient labour to meet the demands of local industries. This is a most satisfactory position and is due to the efforts of the Council to attract new industry to the town.

The mid-year population as estimated by the Registrar General was 6,850, a decrease of 50 compared with 1968, and the excess of deaths over births was 30. Except for 1968, when the population was estimated to have increased by 210, the figures for many years have shown a slow loss of population. What cannot be estimated is the extent to which Haltwhistle has gained population at the expense of the villages but there must have been considerable redistribution. The vital statistics do not compare favourably with those for the rest of the country, the birth rate being lower and the death rate higher than the average. The infant mortality rate is particularly unfavourable, being more than three times the figure for England and Wales, but there

were only four infant deaths among a smaller than average number of births, and the rate for one year cannot be considered in isolation. The deaths above the age of one year call for no special comment, the main causes of death being diseases of the heart and circulation, with about half the deaths occurring over the age of 75. There was however one death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, but as this occurred in an elderly man and was due to disease acquired earlier in life it has no particular significance.

The only cases of infectious diseases notified during the year were of scarlet fever, measles and infective hepatitis. The ten cases of scarlet fever were unconnected in time or place and caused no public health problem. The outbreak of infective hepatitis was of more interest and importance. Nineteen cases were notified between January and July, when the outbreak ceased quite abruptly. The disease is due to a virus, is highly infective among the susceptible and is characterised by malaise and jaundice. The epidemiological pattern is complicated by the occurrence of sub-clinical cases who are infective to others, and the incubation period is variable. Little can be done in the way of prevention or control, but in this instance the disease was mild. Study of the dates of onset and the addresses show that, apart from one case in Coanwood, notifications came from Haltwhistle, and especially from certain streets in Haltwhistle, Castle Hill having four cases and Moorland Avenue five. Almost all those affected were school children or their home contacts. A definite incubation period cannot be assigned to all cases unless one postulates several sources of infection who remained clinically well, but in four families with multiple cases the incubation period was thirty days.

No houses were built by the Council during 1969, but planning continues for sixteen bungalows for the elderly, connected to the warden scheme at Greenholme Road. The first steps were also taken to provide new houses required by the expansion of employment in the town, 150 in the first instance with the possibility of as many as 400. Improvement to older property continues at a steady rate with the aid of grants, and 39 further discretionary grants together with 10 standard grants approved during the year brought the total number of houses improved since the inception of the schemes to 496. Since it seems unlikely that the Council will build houses elsewhere than in Haltwhistle the reconditioning

of older houses in other places becomes of increasing importance and is to be encouraged.

Almost all the properties in the Rural District are supplied with water by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, and regular water sampling is undertaken by the Company. The water is satisfactory in quality and quantity, and is of low plumbo-solvency. The fluoride content of 0.1 to 0.2 parts per million is low, as the ideal level is accepted at 1 part per million. Difficulty is sometimes experienced with small local sources chlorinated manually, and any unsatisfactory samples or complaints are dealt with quickly by the Company. There are still however, some 100 properties not on a mains supply, and these and proposed new supplies are the responsibility of the Council. No extension of the mains supply was carried out during the year, but several small schemes are under consideration. It is the aim of the Council to provide mains water wherever this can be done at reasonable cost, but some isolated houses remote from a main must continue to use a private source.

It is similarly the policy of the Council to provide modern sewage disposal facilities whenever this can be done at reasonable cost. A great deal has already been done and the programme is nearing completion. During 1969 the schemes for Henshaw and Bardon Mill and for Greenhead and Bankfoot came into operation, while the extensions and improvement of the works at Haltwhistle were begun. Talks have taken place with the Border Rural District Council about improvements at Gilsland, a village partly in the two Rural Districts. At Coanwood the discharge of waste water and farm effluent into an open ditch has created a Public Health nuisance, and a disposal scheme has been approved by the Council and is with the Ministry. There remain Lambley and Slaggyford, the only villages without adequate treatment works, and there the proposed schemes will cost £300 and £440 per house respectively. While these figures may prove unacceptably high it is to be hoped that the schemes will be allowed to proceed.

I am grateful to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their help and encouragement and for the close interest they take in the health of the community. The Clerk and other Officers continue to be most helpful, and the Public Health Inspector carried out his many duties with tact and efficiency.

Mrs. E. Thompson, the Clerk typist, left the health department during the year and I should like to record with gratitude the ten years of excellent service which she gave to the Council and to the public.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. M. McEWAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The area of the Haltwhistle Rural District is 96,333 acres. The only town is Haltwhistle, the other centres of population being villages.

The estimated population for 1969 is 6,850 which is a decrease of 50 from 1968.

The number of inhabited houses on 31st December, 1969, was 2,419.

The rateable value at 31st March, 1969, is £178,367.

The sum represented by a penny rate at 31st March, 1969, is £720 2s. 7d.

The following is a list of persons employed in various industries in the district.

	<i>Males and Females over 15 years of age</i>			
Mining and Quarrying	350
Paint, Varnish, Chemical and other Manufacturers	750
Distributive Trades	280
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing..	130
National and Local Government	70
Professional Services	190
Building Trades	230
Transport and Garages	180
Miscellaneous..	100

VITAL STATISTICS

Population

The population of the Haltwhistle Rural District estimated at 30th June, 1969, was 6,850.

Birth Rate

There were 80 live births, giving a birth rate of 13.5 per 1,000 population when the comparability factor is applied. It compares with 16.3 per 1,000 population for all-England and Wales.

Of the total of 80 live births, 2 were illegitimate. As in 1968, there were no still births.

Infantile Mortality

There were 4 deaths of infants under one year. The infant mortality rate is 57.5 per 1,000 live births, the rate for England and Wales being 18 per 1,000.

General Death Rate

A total of 110 deaths occurred during 1969 an increase of 11 on 1968. When the comparability factor is applied, the death rate is 14.8 per 1,000 population. The figure for all England and Wales is 11.9 per 1,000.

17 deaths were due to Cancer, compared with 16 in 1968.

VITAL STATISTICS SUMMARY

Live Births :

Number	..	..	..	..	..	..	80
Corrected Rate per 1,000 population	..	..					13.5
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births							3.45

Stillbirths :

Number	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	..	..					Nil
Total Live and Still Births	..	..	..	..			80
Infant Deaths (deaths under one year)	..	..					4

Infant Mortality Rates :

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	..						57.5
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	57.5
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per,1,000 total live births)	..	..	..	..			43.7
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	..	..	..				28.75
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still-births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	..	..	..	..	..	..	28.75

Maternal Mortality (including abortion) :

Number of deaths	..	..	..	..	..		Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	..	..					Nil

HEALTH SERVICES

Hospitals

(a) HALTWHISTLE WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Surgeon :	Mr. C. I. Raeburn, F.R.C.S. (Ed.)
Gynaecologist :	Mr. D. T. Barber, F.R.C.S.
Physician :	Dr. J. B. Ryder, M.D., M.R.C.P.
Matron :	Miss E. M. Armstrong.

This hospital, which includes a modern Maternity Wing, is under the Management of the Hexham and District Management Committee.

The Local House Committee—Chairman, Mr. G. E. Dent, meets on the first Friday of alternate months.

(i) *X-Ray Department.*

X-Ray examinations are carried out Thursdays at 1-30 p.m.

Consultant Radiologist : Dr. W. Davidson.

(ii) *Gynaecologist Out-Patient Department.*

First Tuesday every month at 11-30 a.m.

(iii) *Surgical Out-Patient Department.*

Wednesdays, 12 noon.

(iv) *Medical Out-Patient Department.*

Alternate Tuesdays, 10 a.m.

(v) *Physio-Therapy Department.*

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 1-30 — 5 p.m.

(b) HEXHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL.

Accommodation at this hospital is available for patients from this district. A number of medical cases for detailed investigation and some major emergency surgical cases are referred there and such special facilities as Physiotherapy are available.

(c) CARLISLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

WALKERGATE INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL,
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

Cases of infectious disease requiring In-patient treatment are accommodated at the above hospitals.

Tuberculosis Service

(a) CHEST CLINICS

Hexham General Hospital — Tuesdays from 9 a.m.

Tuberculosis Officer—Frederic L. Wollaston, M.R.C.S.

Tuesdays 2—4 p.m.

Fridays 5—6-30 p.m.

INSTITUTIONAL TREATMENT.

(i) *Wooley Hospital.*

The standard of treatment at this hospital continues to be exceptionally high, and there is now no waiting list for admission.

(ii) *Stannington Sanatorium.*

25 Children's beds are available.

Midwifery Service

(a) *Ante-Natal Care.*

Two clinics per month are held at the Haltwhistle Clinic by the local doctors.

(b) *Haltwhistle Hospital.*

The majority of the expectant mothers in the district are confined in the Haltwhistle Hospital.

The services of a visiting Gynaecologist, together with his staff, have proved of great assistance and are also available for emergency work.

(c) *Domiciliary Service.*

Two midwives reside in the area :

Miss Brown, 1 Bridge Street, Haltwhistle.

Telephone 368.

Mrs. R. McArthur, 2 Woodlands, Bardon Mill.

Telephone Bardon Mill 273.

Cars are provided for the use of the Nurses to attend cases in this extensive district,

Home Help Service

The County Council Home Help Service is in operation in the district.

Home Helps are available to householders where such help is required in cases of illness, but priority is given to domiciliary maternity cases.

More and more use is being made of the Service by old people and the chronic sick.

County Orthopaedic Service

The Orthopaedic Clinic for Children is held at Hexham General Hospital every Tuesday at 10 a.m. and at Haltwhistle Child Welfare Clinic every Wednesday at 10 a.m.

An Orthopaedic Surgeon attends on the fourth Tuesday every month at Hexham General Hospital and on the second Wednesday of every month at Haltwhistle Child Welfare Clinic.

Child Welfare Service

Clinics are held at Haltwhistle Clinic every Thursday by the Child Welfare Medical Officer and the Health Visitor.

Clinics are also held at Gilsland and Halton-Lea-Gate every fourth Friday.

School Dental Clinic

Clinics are held every Monday and Thursday, and Friday of alternate weeks at Haltwhistle Clinic. The Dentist visits the various schools in the district.

Dental Officer — Mr. I. W. Atchison, B.D.S.

Public Health Laboratory Service

The Public Health Laboratory, under the Director, J. H. Hale, is located at the Newcastle General Hospital.

Ambulance Service

The Ambulance service is maintained and run by the members of the St. John's Ambulance Division, for the Northumberland County Council, and members of the Nursing Division act as attendants when required.

During the year 1969, 5,954 cases were handled, made up as follows :—

Cases Transported by Ambulance :

Road Accidents..	.. 29	Mileage Covered ..	778
Other Accidents	.. 17	Mileage Covered ..	500
Invalids ..	.. 1051	Mileage Covered ..	10,970
	1097		12248
<i>Car Sitting Cases</i>	.. 4857	Mileage Covered ..	52345
Total Cases ..	.. 5954	Total Mileage ..	64593

Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths

Registrar : Mrs. F. Robinson.
Office : C.W.S. Building, Main Street,
Haltwhistle.
Hours : Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays :—
11 a.m. to 12 noon.
Thursdays :— 2—3 p.m.

TABLE I

The following table shows the principal vital mortality rates for the year 1958-69.

YEAR	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	General Death Rate per 1,000 Living	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Death Rate from Respiratory T.B. per 1,000 Living
1958	14.22	10.18	9.51	.00
1959	13.66	12.73	19.42	.00
1960	11.26	13.87	12.19	.00
1961	15.81	13.5	18.35	.00
1962	14.45	13.87	40.4	.00
1963	14.76	13.19	39.6	.68
1964	15.75	13.01	42.55	.68
1965	16.06	14.35	.00	.00
1966	16.05	10.22	31.91	.00
1967	14.78	11.44	11.62	.00
1968	12.17	13.49	25.75	.00
1969	13.5	14.8	57.5	.15

TABLE II.
INFECTIOUS DISEASE

DISEASE	YEAR									
	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Small Pox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ..	2	3	1	21	5	15	58	17	29	10
Whooping Cough ..	1	—	—	1	32	—	—	12	—	—
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	—
Measles ..	12	266	—	79	112	96	15	147	8	2
Pneumonia ..	5	2	1	21	8	4	3	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ..	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Jaundice ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19
TOTALS ..	20	271	2	126	158	118	77	177	37	31

TABLE III.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age. Periods	NEW NOTIFICATIONS						DEATHS					
	Respiratory			Non-Respiratory			Respiratory			Non-Respiratory		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
0 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—44	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—64	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 +	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE IV.
NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.

YEAR	Registered Births					Illegitimate Births (included in Registered Births)				
	Live Births		Still Births			Live Births		Still Births		
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	Total
1959	58	45	—	1	104	—	2	—	1	3
1960	42	40	1	2	85	1	3	—	1	5
1961	61	48	1	1	111	4	1	—	—	5
1962	45	54	2	1	102	1	1	—	—	2
1963	61	40	1	—	102	—	3	—	—	3
1964	55	39	1	1	96	2	4	—	—	6
1965	47	48	1	1	97	3	1	—	—	4
1966	57	37	—	1	95	—	—	—	—	—
1967	41	45	—	1	87	2	1	—	—	3
1968	44	29	—	—	73	—	3	—	—	3
1969	43	37	—	—	80	1	1	—	—	2

TABLE V.
INFANT DEATHS

Deaths of Infants Under 1 year of age.			Deaths of Infants Under 4 weeks of age		
	M.	F.		M.	F.
Legitimate ..	1	—	Legitimate ..	2	1
Illegitimate	—	—	Illegitimate	—	—
	1	—		2	1

TABLE VI
CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS

	M.	F.	Total
Congenital Anomalies	1	1	2
Other cases of Perinatal Mortality	1	—	1
Disease of Digestive System	1	—	1
	3	1	4

TABLE VII
ANALYSIS OF DEATHS BY CAUSES

CAUSES OF DEATH	M.	F.
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity, etc. ..	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	1	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ..	2	1
Leukaemia	—	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	5	—
Diabetes Mellitus	—	1
Anaemias	—	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	—	2
Hypertensive Disease	1	—
Ischaemic Heart Disease	8	11
Other Forms of Heart Disease	2	6
Cerebrovascular Disease	10	13
Other Diseases of Circulatory System ..	5	2
Pneumonia	1	2
Bronchitis and Emphysema	9	—
Asthma	—	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ..	2	1
Peptic Ulcer	—	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	—
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System ..	1	1
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System ..	1	1
Congenital Anomalies	1	1
Other causes of Perinatal Nortality ..	1	—
Motor Vehicle Accidents	4	—
TOTAL	60	50

TABLE VIII
AGES AT DEATH

	M.	F.	Total
Under 4 weeks	2	1	3
4 weeks and under 1 year ..	1	—	1
1 — 4 years	—	—	—
5 — 14 „	—	—	—
15 — 24 „	3	—	3
25 — 34 „	1	—	1
35 — 44 „	—	—	—
45 — 54 „	3	5	8
55 — 64 „	13	7	20
65 — 74	16	11	27
75 and over	21	26	47
	60	50	110

REPORT
of the
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
For the Year Ended 31st December, 1969

W. FORSTER,
M.A.P.H.I.

Duties :
Public Health.
Housing.

Meat and Foods.
Inspection.

Council House
Allocation.

Refuse Collection
and Disposal.

WATER SUPPLY

During the year, in conjunction with the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, 76 samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination, 72 from public supplies and 4 from private supplies.

As will be seen from the following tables some samples taken at Melkridge, Halton-Lea-Gate and Waterloo fell below the accepted standard, but check samples taken immediately afterwards gave satisfactory results. The Company propose to instal a new tank at Waterloo, in the early part of next year.

Including new houses 13 additional properties were connected to the public mains during the year.

Public Supplies

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER SAMPLES

	No. of Samples Taken	Number Satisfactory	Number Unsatis- factory
Haltwhistle	25	25	—
Melkridge	5	4	1
Gilsland	3	3	—
Greenhead	3	3	—
Bardon Mill	3	3	—
Slaggyford	9	9	—
Halton-lea-Gate	9	8	1
Thorngraston	5	5	—
Coanwood	1	1	—
Waterloo	9	7	2
	72	68	4

Private and Proposed Supplies

4 samples were taken, the results of which are given below.

	No. of Samples Taken	Number Satisfactory	Number Unsatis- factory	Total Samples Taken
	Bact. Chem.	Bact. Chem.	Bact. Chem.	
Wardoughan Farm, Gilsland	2 —	2 —	— —	2
Moriah House, Eals, Slaggyford	1 —	1 —	— —	1
Hill House, Haltwhistle	1 —	1 —	— —	1
	4 —	4 —	— —	4

Details of Houses and Population Supplied from
Public Mains

Parish	No. of Houses Direct from Mains	Estimated Population	No. of Houses Served by Standpipes	Estimated Population
Bardon Mill ..	101	275	2	4
Coanwood ..	55	176	—	—
Featherstone ..	49	135	5	10
Greenhead ..	73	200	—	—
Haltwhistle ..	1332	4060	—	—
Hartleyburn ..	93	273	—	—
Henshaw ..	174	500	—	—
Melkridge ..	58	180	—	—
Plenmeller with Whitfield ..	29	90	—	—
Kirkhaugh with Knaresdale ..	68	200	—	—
Thirlwall ..	148	473	—	—
	2180	6562	7	14

Sources closed or discontinued — No. of Houses —

New Service provided :—

- (a) By Local Authority .. Nil No. of Houses Nil
- (b) By Newcastle and Gates,
head Water Company 10 No. of Houses 13
- (c) By Private Owner .. — No. of Houses —

HOUSING

Council House Building

No council houses were built during the year but the Council had, under consideration, proposals for erecting further Aged Persons Dwellings on the Greenholme Road site.

New Houses Completed During the Year

New Houses completed during the Year.	With State Assistance.	Unaided.	Total
(a) By Local Authority ..	—	—	—
(b) By any other Housing Authority	—	—	—
(c) By private persons ..	—	6	6
	—	6	6

Houses Under Construction at 31/12/69

	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority	—	—	—
(b) By other persons or bodies	—	10	10
	—	10	10

The total number of houses owned by the Council is now 597, of which 65 are for aged persons. This figure also includes the Warden's Flat at Greenholme Road and the Caretaker's Cottage at Greencroft Lodge.

Details of Council Housing Estates are shown in the following tables.

Details of Council Housing Estates as at 31/12/69
General Purpose Houses

ESTATE	TYPE OF HOUSE					TOTAL
	3 BR	3 BR Maison- ette	2 BR	2 BR Flat Ground Floor	2 BR Flat First Floor	
<i>Haltwhistle :</i>						
Greencroft	24	—	—	—	—	24
Greencroft Lodge	—	—	1	—	—	1
Park Road	31	—	—	—	—	31
Park Avenue	24	—	—	—	—	24
Central Drive	36	—	10	—	—	46
Greencroft Avenue	11	—	—	—	—	11
Fell View ..	—	—	16	—	—	16
Comb Hill Road	14	—	—	—	—	14
Moorland Avenue	26	—	—	4	4	34
Newholme Avenue	44	—	—	4	4	52
Fairholme Avenue	12	—	—	—	—	12
Capel Avenue	10	—	—	8	8	26
Castle Hill	—	—	2	—	—	2
High Row	—	—	3	—	—	3
Westlands	34	—	2	—	—	36
Railway Terrace	—	—	5	—	—	5
Burn Close	14	—	—	—	—	14
Woodhead Lane	—	—	—	8	8	16
Woodhead Close	—	18	—	6	—	24
Greenholme Close	—	20	—	10	—	30
Warden's Flat	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greenholme Road	—	—	—	—	1	1
	280	38	39	40	25	422
<i>Longbyre :</i>						
Holyrood Place	2	—	—	—	—	2
<i>Greenhead :</i>						
Milburn Terrace	1	—	4	—	—	5
<i>Coanwood :</i>						
High Ridley	8	—	—	—	—	8
<i>Gilsland :</i>						
Rosehill ..	13	—	—	—	—	13
<i>Bardon Mill :</i>						
Broadacres ..	36	—	8	—	—	44
<i>Halton-Lea-Gate :</i>						
Leaside ..	30	—	8	—	—	38
	370	38	59	40	25	532

Aged Persons Dwellings

ESTATE	Bungalows	D. Smith Bungalows	Ground Floor Flat	First Floor Flat	Totals
Holmeside Cresc.	11	—	—	—	11
Meadow Close . .	12	—	—	—	12
Greenholme Rd.	—	—	16	16	32
D. Smith B'low's	—	10	—	—	10
	23	10	16	16	65

Council House Applications

At the end of the year there were 86 applications for general purpose houses and 53 for aged persons dwellings.

Although no new council houses were built, 25 families were rehoused during the year as a result of casual vacancies, 18 into general purpose houses, and 7 into aged persons dwellings. By exchanges of tenancies and transfers 14 families were moved into houses more suitable to their needs.

Improvement Grants

DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

39 applications for discretionary grant were received during the year. Of the 39 properties involved 32 were owner occupied and 7 were tenanted. Grants amounting to £13,376 were approved.

During the year works of improvement were completed in respect of 38 properties and grants amounting to £10,815 were passed for payment.

Since the inception of the scheme in 1949, the total number of houses for which grant approval has been given is 388. Of the number 279 were for owner occupied properties and 109 for rented houses, 5 of these being council owned.

STANDARD GRANTS

10 applications for standard grant were received during the year, all of which were approved.

During the year standard amenities were provided in 16 properties and grants amounting to £1,592 were passed for payment.

Since this type of grant was introduced in 1960, 108 houses have been provided with standard amenities which they previously lacked. Of these properties 62 were owner occupied and 46 were tenanted, 16 of the latter being council owned.

Summary of Discretionary Grants Approved

Year	Number of Houses	Owner Occupied	Rented	Amount of Grant Approved £
1950	6	6	—	717
1951	7	5	2	1142
1952	11	9	2	2424
1953	12	9	3	2585
1954	23	13	10	4239
1955	25	20	5	6203
1956	23	13	10	5089
1957	26	16	10	6160
1958	27	23	4	7391
1959	10	7	3	1964
1960	20	13	7	4256
1961	17	13	4	4097
1962	20	13	7	4344
1963	16	11	5	3994
1964	22	12	10	4494
1965	17	6	11	4471
1966	16	15	1	4434
1967	9	8	1	3162
1968	42	35	7	11201
1969	39	32	7	13376
	388	279	109	95883

Summary of Standard Grants Completed

Year	No. of houses	L.A.	Private	Owner Occupied	Rented	Basic Amenities provided				
						Bath	Wash hand basin	Hot Water Supply	Internal W.C.	Food Store
1959	2	—	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	2
1960	6	—	6	4	2	3	3	4	4	4
1961	15	2	13	12	3	8	8	7	15	4
1962	22	13	9	7	15	6	21	6	9	5
1963	7	1	6	2	5	4	5	4	6	1
1964	16	—	16	8	8	11	14	12	16	13
1965	5	—	5	4	1	4	4	4	5	4
1966	5	—	5	1	4	4	4	4	5	3
1967	7	—	7	3	4	5	5	5	7	1
1968	7	—	7	6	1	5	5	5	7	5
1969	16	—	16	14	2	8	7	9	16	5
	108	16	92	62	46	60	78	61	91	47

Unfit Houses

No statutory action under the Housing Acts was taken during the year.

Housing Act 1969

This Act became operative from 25th August, 1969

Part I of the Act deals with the increases in grants towards the cost of conversion and improvement of dwellings. In the case of discretionary grants, the maximum grant has been increased from £400 to £1,000. A new feature is the inclusion for grant of certain items of repair and replacement, which are incidental to or needed to make fully effective an improvement carried out at the same time, the cost of such repairs are not to exceed 50% of the total amount of grant. With reference to standard grants, a sink has replaced a foodstore as a basic amenity. The amount of grant for each amenity is increased with a new maximum of £200 in place of the old £155.

Part III deals with rents. Rents which were formerly based on existing rents or rateable value together with the cost of improvements no longer apply. They will now be determined by the Rent Officer in accordance with the provision of the 1968 Rent Act. Rent control is also relaxed by allowing rents of controlled properties to be increased. In this connection the local authority are required to issue a certificate confirming that a particular dwelling has all the standard amenities for the exclusive use of the occupants and that it is in good repair having regard to its age, character and location. These certificates which are known as "Qualification Certificates" have to be issued to a landlord for submission to the Rent Officer when an application for a new rent to be fixed is made.

The new Act does not appear to have made any impact in the district. It is considered that those persons who wished to improve their properties would have done so in any case, and of the 10 applications for discretionary grant which have been considered since August only 2, which were for major works of conversion qualified for near maximum grant.

It is anticipated that in the main, applications for grant will continue to be for simple alterations to convert larders or bedrooms into bathrooms, and that applications for

larger grants will occur when two small houses are being made into one unit, or when a building which was not previously used as living accommodation is converted into a dwelling.

Certificates of Qualification

4 applications for certificates of qualification under Sect. 44 (1) of the Housing Act 1969 have been received and are being dealt with.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

On the 10th May, Messrs J. Norman and Son ceased to operate in business as butchers and surrendered the licence for their slaughterhouse at Portobello.

There are now no licensed slaughterhouses in the district.

During the period from 1st January to the 5th May, 53 animals were slaughtered and all carcasses were inspected and stamped in accordance with the Meat Inspection Regulations 1963. Of the 31 bovine animals, 3 sheep and 19 pigs inspected, 4 bovine carcasses and 1 sheep carcass were found to have some part or organ affected, resulting in 56 lbs. of offal being condemned. 54 lbs. of bovine liver for cirrhosis and 2 lbs. of sheep liver for parasites.

Summary of Unsound Food Surrendered or Seized

During the year 163 lbs. of various foodstuffs were certified as unfit for human consumption, details are shown in the following table.

Unsound Food	Surrendered		Seized		Legal Proceedings
	No. of Tins	Weight Lbs.	No. of Tins	Weight Lbs.	
Cooked Meat and Meat Products ..	—	35	—	—	—
Tinned Meats ..	7	30	—	—	—
Tinned Fruit ..	11	16	—	—	—
Tinned Vegetables	24	16	—	—	—
Other Tinned Foods	13	14	—	—	—
Frozen Foods ..	—	52	—	—	—
	55	163	—	—	—

Food Inspection

248 visits to food premises were made during the year. The standard of cleanliness of both premises and personnel continues to be satisfactory.

There are a number of travelling shops and sales vans which visit various parts of the district and inspections have been carried out from time to time to ensure that hygienic practices are being complied with.

No prosecutions were taken under the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations during the year.

During the year, one public house, The Sportsmans Arms at Coanwood was closed. The butchers shop at Gilsland occupied by A. Waugh was closed as was also the Chemists Shop in Haltwhistle occupied by Timothy White. The Red Lion Hotel which had been closed since September, 1967 was re-opened as a Cafe in October.

Details of food premises in the area are shown in the following table.

Food Premises

TYPE OF PREMISES					
1.	Hotels and Inns	..	..	..	15
2.	Social Clubs and Public Halls	..			15
3.	School Canteens	..	..	..	10
4.	Works Canteens	..	..	..	3
5.	Butchers	..	..	..	4
6.	General Dealers, Grocers and Confectioners	..	..	..	39
7.	Cafes and Snack Bars	..	..		6
8.	Fish and Chip Shops	..	..		1
9.	Wet Fish Shops	..	..	..	2
10.	Bakehouses	..	..	..	4
11.	Hospitals and Institutes..		..		2
12.	Ice Cream Manufacturers		..		2
13.	Mineral Water Factory	..	..		1
14.	Chemists	..	..	..	1
TOTAL					105

Ice Cream

Number of Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955, for the manufacture of Ice Cream	2
Number of Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955, for the sale of pre-packed Ice Cream.. .. .	28

Milk

Routine samples of milk have been taken regularly throughout the year by the County Health Department from all dealers who sell milk in the area. Samples have also been regularly taken of all milk supplied to schools. 10 samples were taken, 8 of which were of milk supplied to schools.

Brucellosis

2 samples were taken during the year of milk from farms from which untreated milk is sold by retail, in each case the *Brucella abortus* ring test proved negative.

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations

There are no pasteurisation plants in the district.

Poultry Processing Premises

There are no poultry processing plants within the district.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Refuse collection and disposal is carried out by direct labour and collections are made from practically all the reasonably accessible properties in the district.

A 12 cubic yard Karrier Bantam rear loader, purchased in August 1965, operated by a driver and two loaders is used to collect from Haltwhistle Town and Plenmeller while the outside district (Gilsland, Greenhead, Redburn, Melkridge, Bardon Mill, Thorngraston, Beltingham, Henshaw, Slaggyford, Park Village, Coanwood, Kellah, Lambley, Halton-lea-Gate and Whitfield) is served by a 7 cubic yard Ford/Eagle, side loader with a driver and one loader. In May of this year a new 7 cubic yard side loader was brought into service on the country run in place of the existing vehicle which had been in use for over nine years.

Refuse is collected from some 2,100 houses, approximately 90% of the inhabited houses in the district, and by estimated weight 2,700 tons of refuse are collected and disposed of yearly.

All refuse is disposed of at Plenmeller with the exception of one half day's refuse per week which is tipped at Lambley. The Council employ a full time tip attendant, but this man has to be used as a relief loader in times of sickness and at holiday periods.

Litter Act 1958

No proceedings under this Act were instituted during the year.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

During the year, both Board of Trade advance factories commenced production, one being occupied by Sasmo Ltd., for the assembly of wooden windows and the other by A.G.M.A. Ltd., for the manufacture of industrial cleansing fluid. The old school at Henshaw was re-opened as a factory where toys and fancy goods are assembled. Two factories closed during the period. Norman's slaughterhouse at Portobello and the egg packing factory owned by Billy Bell in Haltwhistle.

At the end of the year the number of factories on the register was 40, made up as follows :—

Joiners and Builders Premises	9
Garages and Motor Vehicle Repairs ..	7
Radio and Television Repairs	2
Corn Mill	1
Bakehouses	4
Ice Cream Manufacturers	2
Sanitary Pipe Works	2
Sausage Manufacturers	4
Concrete Products	1
Mineral Water Factory	1
Saw Mill	1
Gas Works.. .. .	1
Plastic and chemical Factories	3
Paint Works	1
Toy and Fancy Goods Assembly ..	1
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	40
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FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Part I of the Act.

I.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

PREMISES (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	5	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	35	53	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	5	5	—	—
TOTAL	45	63	—	—

II.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found

PARTICULARS (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S. 1.)	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S. 2)... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	2	2	—	—	—

Part VII of the Act

OUTWORK

Sections 110 & 111

There is one Outworker in the district engaged in embroidery. The premises have been inspected and found to be satisfactory.

THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

The details of premises registered and the numbers of persons employed show little change from the previous year. 3 premises, 1 office and 2 retail shops closed during the period and were taken off the register.

182 visits were made during the year and all premises generally complied with the provision of the Act, a few minor contraventions were noted, principally the failure to display abstracts of the Act.

Three accidents were reported during the year, all of which occurred in retail shops, and were caused while goods were being handled.

No prosecutions under the Act were taken during the year.

Details of premises and persons employed are shown in the following tables.

Class of Premises	No. of Premises Registered During the year	Total No. of Registered Premises at end of year	No. of Registered Premises Inspected During year
(a) Offices	—	12	13
(b) Retail Shops ..	—	40	42
(c) Wholesale Depts. Warehouses ..	—	—	—
(d) Catering Establish- ments open to the public ..	—	8	8
(e) Staff Canteens ..	—	1	1
(f) Fuel Storage Depot	—	1	1
TOTALS ..	—	62	65

Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises

Class of Workplace	Number of Persons Employed		TOTAL
	Males	Females	
Offices	26	27	53
Retail Shops ..	62	105	167
Wholesale Depts. Warehouses ..	—	—	—
Catering Establishments	2	15	17
Staff Canteens ..	—	9	9
Fuel Storage Depots ..	1	—	1
TOTALS	91	156	247

RODENT CONTROL
PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

The Council continue to employ a part time rodent operative, and inspections and treatments have been satisfactorily carried out.

The following table gives details of the premises which have been inspected and treated during the year.

PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in district..	2526	343
2. a Total number of properties (including near by premises) inspected following notifications	169	Nil
b Number infested by		
(i) Rats	120	---
(ii) Mice.. .. .	7	---
3. a Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification..	344	35
b Number infected by :		
(i) Rats.. .. .	68	—
(ii) Mice.. .. .	4	—
SEWERS		
4. Were any sewers infested by rats during the year ?	No	

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960

At present there are five licensed sites in the area. One major site at Blenkinsopp Castle and four sites for individual caravans only.

In April, planning permission was given to increase the number of caravans at Blenkinsopp Park from 65 to 70 (40 holiday and 30 residential) and a new licence was issued.

Public Swimming Baths

There are no public swimming baths in the area.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

Places of Entertainment, Circular 120 Ministry of Health

Number of Cinemas	1
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Pet Animals Act 1951

There are no premises in the district registered under this Act.

Animal Boarding Establishment Act 1963

There are no licensed establishments in the district.

Noise Abatement Act 1960

No formal action was necessary under this Act.

Clean Air Act 1956

One or two minor complaints were received during the year and were dealt with informally.

Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964

Two applications for registration as Scrap Metal Dealers were received and approved, there are at present 4 registered dealers in the district.

General Administration

A total of 510 personal callers making enquiries or complaints were received by the Public Health Department during the year, all matters arising were dealt with.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

Council House Applications	127
Council Housing (General)	102
Housing (Improvement Grants)	352
Housing (General)	78
Meat Inspection	16
Food Inspection	13
Food Premises	178
Places of Entertainment and Licensed Premises ..	23
Ice Cream Premises	5
Drainage	33
Factories	63
Infectious Diseases	10
Caravan Sites	14
Nuisances	32
Pest Control	57
Refuse Collection and Disposal	285
Water Supplies (General)	13
Water Supplies (Sampling)	7
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises :	
Offices	32
Shops	107
Catering Establishments.. .. .	38
Staff Canteens	4
Fuel Storage Depots	1
Miscellaneous	3
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